

# East District Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday 17 August 2023 – 7pm via Zoom



Present:                   Jeremy Chittleburgh (JMC)  
                              Susan Liddle (SL)  
                              Tony Dane (TD)  
                              Duncan McKinnell (DM)  
                              Les Rodger (LRo)  
                              Colin Kennedy (CK)  
                              Lynn Rafferty (LR)  
                              Ed O'Brian (EO')

In attendance:        Andy Maguire (RSDM)

Next meeting:        19 October 2023, 7.00 p.m.

### 1. Welcome

JMC noted that the meeting was being recorded as a Minute secretary is still being sought. He indicated he would ask his PA to transcribe the meeting from the recording.

JMC welcomed all to the meeting noting he thought he had met everyone other than Susanne, introducing himself as the new Vice President of the East District. JMC also asked if everyone had read the papers in full and confirmed that these could be taken as read. He then asked that when speaking to individual papers, they only highlight any specific points required.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Brian Walkinshaw (BW), Mark Jones (MJ), Ritchie Metcalf (RM), Alistair Shields (AS) and Lesley Bloomer (LB).

### 3. Declarations of interest

No new declarations were noted.

### 4. President's Report (*Susan Liddle*)

JMC invited to go through her report. She thanked JMC for agreeing to be Vice President and noted she looks forward to working with him. SL noted this was one of the busiest periods and that the District has agreed to fund, for one year only, Young Volunteer Program for 2023/24. All Districts in Scotland have agreed to do the funding for another year. It has taken time to get there but we are now in a place where we are happier and more confident going forward.

Scottish Swimming's SwiMark has been through an upgrade and is now being launched as Aquamark. SL has looked at this and is quite impressed. She gave a brief overview of the noting there are three levels. She noted that every club in our district should be able to achieve Level 1. We are also looking to add in a district CPD which can be different for every district. More meetings will be held but this should be launched on the 1 September.

The new school's swimming programme is gaining shape. A considerable amount of work has been done on this. A frightening number of P4, P5 and P6 pupils are unable to swim so the work being done is vital. Learn to swim membership will be discussed at chairs meeting following on from the AGM. Transgender policies have been delayed as a number of things have been raised which need to be double checked. We are working

with Children First on this. Once this is dealt with it will be rolled out next year on a 'drip feed' basis.

DM asked about the district element on AquaMark which he did not understand. SL indicated that level 1 is more of a tick box exercise, level 2 adds an element of CPD for each district. Scottish Swimming will produce this but we will have input into the process.

#### **5. Secretary's Report** (*Tony Dane*)

As in the Reports circulated prior to the Meeting.

#### **6. Finance Report** (*Duncan McKinnell*)

DM note the report had been circulated. About £5,000 of arrears on affiliation fees are noted which he will chase. Membership of 5,068 is increased by 264 from last year. One new club has come on board and one club has not renewed their membership with Scottish Swimming which cancel each other out in terms of numbers. Clubs showing good growth are Carnegie, Fauldhouse, Hailes, Hawick, Hearts, Portobello and SwimIT. A few to worry about is Bathgate who have had a large reduction, Livingston, North Berwick (he had met with them towards end of presidency and noted they had been through a pretty traumatic period with the number of Committee members leaving and a new committee picking up the reigns). He also mentioned that a successful Summer Sizzler had been held, with income of over £20k with costs of around £11k.

Open Water has a deficit of £530 which is all about the East District Open Water Championships with a few late expenses coming in which will bring the deficit up to about £600.

JMC asked what we are doing with uncashed cheques. DM noted he proposed to go to the Exec individually to make a call to decide whether we reissue or make payment or whether they are written back into District funds. DM confirmed that internet banking has now been set up which will make a significant difference.

JMC mentioned that the Summer Sizzler was an amazing event and he thanked all those involved.

#### **7. Regional Reports**

##### *(a) Borders (Suzanne)*

JMC asked if there was anything outwith the report which she wished to highlight. The main point was that the BRS is still missing a Chair. This is not due to lack of asking. The Border Elite swim team now has Kirsty Armstrong as head coach and things are progressing well.

The Chair thanked Suzanne for joining the meeting, noting she had emailed David inviting Borders to come for the Regional School's event which should be going to Suzanne shortly. This was confirmed as the 19 November.

JMC also noted it was good to see the Borders moving on again.

##### *(b) Fife (Ed O'Brien)*

The one point he would like to comment on and ask is, what happens in other districts as the Michael Woods Centre is currently closed for around six weeks, and he noted that when Glenrothes are allowed full use of all lanes, however, when Fins are in, there is a restriction to four lanes even though no-one is using the other two lanes. JMC thought it would be best to clarify this with the pool itself as things are dealt with locally.

Other than this, EO noted they are still looking for a Secretary and a Treasurer.

The Chair suggested that in connection with the pool query, that EO contact AM as he would be more involved in that area. AM confirmed he would be happy to discuss to gain support if possible.

JMC asked about RM organising a card reader. EO confirmed that this had been received and was working very well. JMC feels this may be something worthwhile considering for the wider district. DM noted he would pick this up with RM to see how it was being used and the details of how it works.

(c) *Lothian*

No report had been received but SL noted that the Macfadyen Gala had been moved from the Saturday to the Sunday. Lothian Region also had money set aside, pre Covid, for a Lothian Squad Day and she has been in contact with Edinburgh University. It is proposed that this will be four sessions using the University pool. A University coach will be on poolside and there will be cameras available. This should take place at the beginning of the year.

**8. Swimming** (*Lynne Rafferty*)

Congratulations to all the swimmers who have represented either Scotland or GB over the summer in the World Championships, Para World Championships, European Junior championships and Commonwealth Youth Games.

At the European Junior Swimming Championships, Holly McGill, Heart of Midlothian bagged a Silver in the 200 Back her first international medal and was given the honour of flag bearer. Stefan Krawiec (Tranent/East Lothian Swim Team) also competed with solid individual and relay swims.

At the Para World Championships, Sam Downie (Musselburgh/East Lothian Swim Team) Bronze S8 100 Back, finalist in 400 Free, Edinburgh University swimmers – Stephen Clegg (S12 Gold 50 Back in a British Record, Silver 100 Fly & 100 Free, finalist 50 free), Scott Quinn (SB14 finalist 100 Breast, Relay Silver) and Former East District swimmer Ollie Carter (S10 finalist 400 Free) selected.

Former East District swimmers – Kara Hanlon, Lucy Hope and Keanna MacInnes took part in the World Championships.

LR acknowledged the selection of Holly McGill, Heart of Midlothian and Stefan Krawiec (Tranent/East Lothian Swim Team) for the Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad & Tobago opening ceremony with Stefan as one of the flag bearers, the 4th of August with the Aquatics events commencing 6th August. East Lothian coach Jamie Ward also selected to the coaching team. Holly McGill (Gold 100 & 200 Back, Silver 4 x 100 Mixed Medley Relay), Stefan Krawiec (Silver 4 x 100 Mixed Free Relay).

LR also recognised the achievement of Jessica Heeps (Fauldhouse Penguins) who was selected to compete in the Triathlon at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad & Tobago, bagging an individual Silver and relay Silver.

The Junior Academy is facing challenges in getting a pool for the first weekend. It has been confirmed two groups can be run from the same pool. Logistics need to be worked out. Numbers say 50 and we are currently sitting at 46 which includes para swimmers. Some swimmers have been moved up to Youth Academy following summer meets.

CK wished to offer congratulations from the group to all those who had taken part, not just the medallists.

**9. Water Polo** (*Richie Metcalfe*)

RM was unavailable but JMC had not picked anything up other than success in representation. No further comments were made on the report.

#### 10. **Masters** (*Mark Jones*)

MJ coaches Masters on a Thursday which is why he is unable to attend the meetings but had given his report. JMC noted some good results, noting his particular interest in Warrender and it was good to see the records achieved at the British Champions with other clubs having representation and gaining good results also.

SL wished it known that East District Masters has been granted a licence and will take place at Prestonpans on the 18 November. Entries will be done on-line again this year.

LR asked about having something going out on social media, and asked whether we should consider issuing congratulations a few days apart.

#### 11. **Artistic Swimming** (*Lesley Bloomer*)

LB had compiled the report. One point JMC was surprised about was the fact they had insufficient judges which is obviously a concern. SL noted that there was money sitting from the district allocated to put someone through the training but no-one has put themselves forward yet. JMC asked how we highlight this to them and SL thought this would just need to be via conversation. LR noted that from the Swim Committee that it was necessary to make sure we have enough volunteers and a couple of ideas to get people interested to come and do testers to then be able to encourage them to do more. Coffee mornings, drop-in, social events were all put forward. It is recognised that there is a need to energise more volunteers.

#### 12. **Diving** (*Kenton D'Mellow*)

No report had been received. TD feels there is a bit of disconnect and they seem to be drifting away. It would be good to know what the club are doing. SL asked if it might be an idea to have physical presence to try and encourage more engagement. SL and JMC will take this offline.

#### 13. **Open Water** (*Kirsten Geary*)

A comprehensive report had been received from KG. JMC asked if there were more athletes involved in the Open Water regime and LR confirmed this to be the case. He noted there were 24 officials in training with only six people able to train them. It was noted that it was good to see the interest being shown. DM had previously noted there was a deficit of £600 and wished to clarify that this was against a budgeted deficit of £1,900. Picking up on LR's comment regarding the number of entries DM noted that the increase had shown a budget income of £1,500 but it was £1,900 which shows that entries are well up.

AM noted that few of his swimmers had been doing open water swimming but this year some of the younger swimmers had gone for the first time. This has encouraged more to join and it is looking good for the future which is good to see. Some of the parents who had gone along with them are recent officials with us. He does not know if they have done anything with the open water ones but it is hoped they will move this forward.

SL asked how the gantry had worked and LRo had said it was working well. The electronics are not 100% reliable unfortunately but the outlay has been worthwhile.

#### 14. **S.T.O.C** (*Alistair Shields*)

AS was unfortunately unable to attend and had sent his apologies as he was stuck in traffic. JMC noted the main point to highlight was that there had been some updates that have to be complied with. The seminar is taking place on 15 October 2023 at which there will be several updates for Technical Officials. SL confirmed that a link for register had been sent and it is hoped that this will be a hybrid meeting. The main point was the change in uniform.

LR noted that at the swimming committee meeting last night AS was going to send a note out around recorders as he is looking for members who are interested to nominate by 1 September.

#### **15. Archive** (*Colin Kennedy*)

CK noted he had looked on the laptop at some of the Clubs to see what was happening in 1923 and included correspondence that had been there in his report. He gave an overview of what he had discovered which was interesting.

For the District benefit he had been asked to go along to Broxburn (which is closing at the end of the month). There is a cupboard which is full and they did not know what they should retain. They had been offered some pool time at various places but they are not receiving access to storage facilities. There were 9 bags full of trophies that CK had taken for the archive for consideration of what we can do with them. It is a sad situation for the team.

LR noted she had learned to swim at Broxburn and she would be interested in what CK has retained as there will be a lot of history. CK will contact LR and let her know what is there once he has had the opportunity to go through everything.

#### **16. Web Site** (*Tony Dane*)

TD had nothing further to report on the Web Site.

#### **17. AOCB**

JMC noted that AM had not said anything during the meeting and he wondered if there was anything he might like to add. AM noted that SL had covered a lot of what is being done at the moment.

TD noted he had received an email from LB saying she could not find the link to the meeting and therefore sent her apologies.

DM noted he would like to update the Committee on the Edinburgh International. Firstly, that there was a proposal from two current Trustees (DM and Helen Murray) to appoint a third Trustee (Jack Thorpe). As the Trustees are appointed by the East District, he was looking for approval from the Management Committee for this appointment. DM gave a brief overview of JT's background and history. The proposal was approved unanimously.

AG sked a question regarding Cupar as he thought they were running a swimming coaching course and wondered if this would be affected. AM confirmed this was run separately.

The second point was that the 2024 Edinburgh International was taking place on the 8 – 10 March 2024 at the Commonwealth Pool with the finer details to be confirmed.

Thirdly, there has been a lot of talk on how we can disentangle the Edinburgh International from the East District. A discussion had taken place with the proposal being that a constitution be created with an arm's length distance between the district and the Trustees who will be responsible for running the Edinburgh International. He will revert when further progress has been made.

CK asked about the Scottish Swimming Awards Dinner and AGM. SL indicated that a table had been booked and finalising details. She noted that CK was top of the list but CK indicated he may be a late call off due to health issues but he would let SL know as soon as he was able.

#### **18. Dates of next meeting**

- (a) 21 September 2023 – Pre SASA AGM Membership Meeting/business meeting – Zoom.
- (b) 19 October 2023 – Management Meeting - Zoom